



GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mission

In collaboration with the community we serve, members of the Golden Valley Police Department take pride in delivering timely, impartial and professional police services, while reducing crime through prevention education, community outreach and criminal justice partnerships.

Values

Valley Values are the things Golden Valley employees do, put into phrases that are easy to remember when anyone asks, or when we wonder what's important. Six core values, called Valley Values, provide the City of Golden Valley and its employees with the well-being of shared meaning and purpose:

Customer Focus

Open Communication

Positive Attitude

Know How

Teamwork

Work/Life Balance

Dear Citizens:

In 2010, Golden Valley experienced its lowest crime rate in more than a decade. Without question, this drop in crime was due to crime prevention and proactive reporting by residents, good police work, crime analysis, and strong partnerships with several other agencies.

As proud as I am to tell you of our community success in this area, I also have to tell you we cannot relax our vigilance in all the practices that contributed to keeping Golden Valley so safe last year. Residents are strongly encouraged to call 911 if they notice suspicious activity—remember, 911 is to prevent or report a crime. Also, we've made great strides in reminding residents to be smart about securing property and valuables.

The majority of our thefts from vehicles occur with unlocked vehicles in which personal property is plainly visible. Similarly with homes, be mindful of not leaving ground-floor windows open when you are not home, and lock your doors even if you are inside the house. Criminals will act on a split-second opportunity—don't give them one! Let's all be good neighbors and keep an eye on the homes of others and work together to maintain the high quality of neighborhoods in Golden Valley.

With an eye toward saving money, the City explored options for police/fire dispatch services in 2010. Although Golden Valley had a long and satisfactory partnership with the City of St. Louis Park for dispatch services, it was prudent to discuss cheaper alternatives without a drop in service. To that end, Golden Valley entered a new three-year dispatch contract with the City of Edina, which commenced seamlessly in December. It is anticipated the new contract will save the City more than \$100,000 per year. Kudos to Edina IT and Police staff for working so hard to make the transition very easy for us.

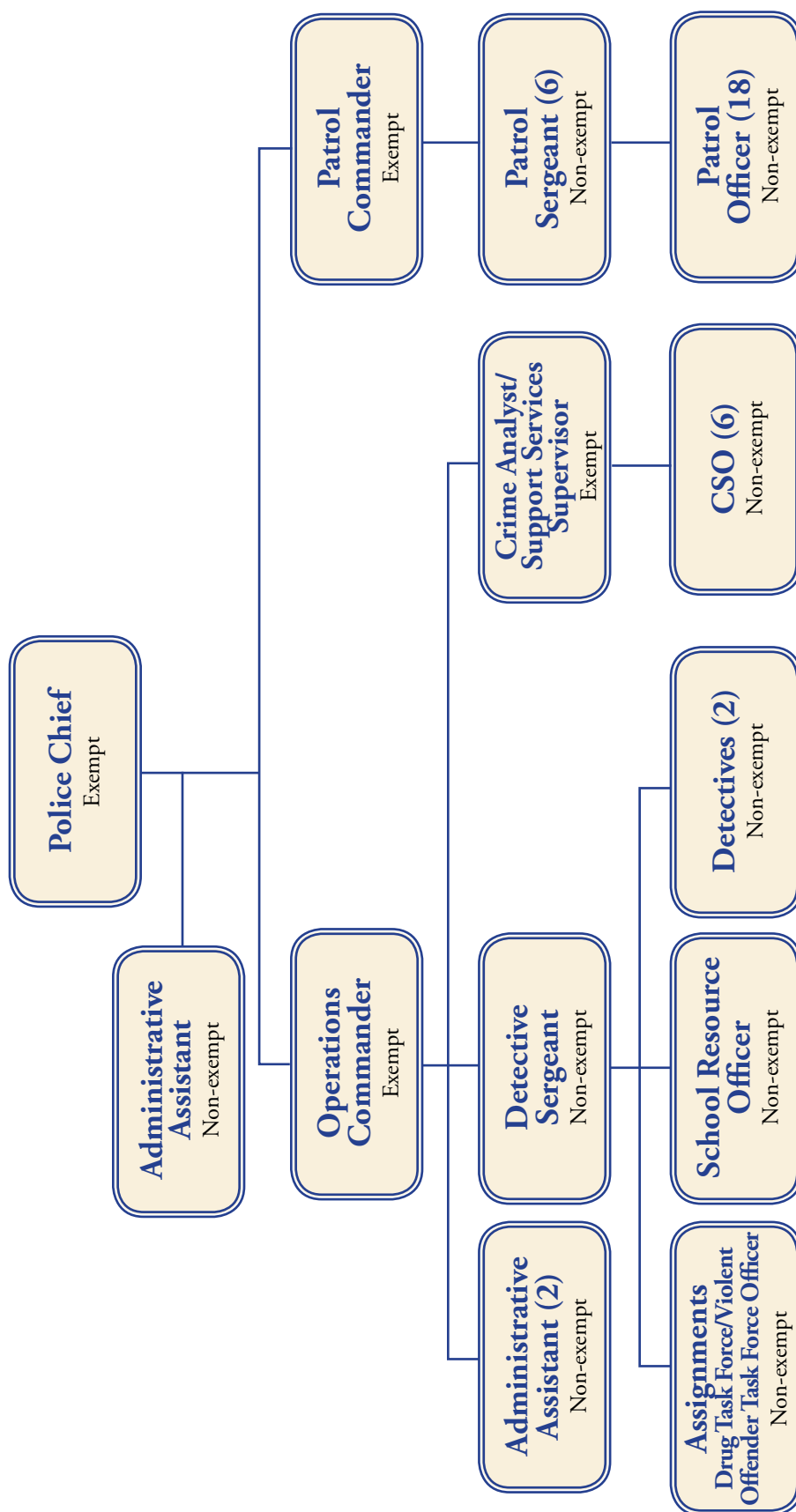
With such a diverse and engaged community, it is always a highlight to interact with residents and business owners through our education outreach efforts. Another successful season of Police and Fire In The Parks resulted in many positive connections with area youth and parents. The Police Department also offered a Citizen's Academy for the first time, hosting a number of residents for six weeknights in the winter and educating them on police policy, procedures, and services. Lastly, staff took a handful of hardy residents on a guided bike tour of some notable City addresses, despite the temperature being near 100 degrees!

It is truly a privilege to serve the residents of Golden Valley. Please rest assured the Golden Valley Police Department stands ready to keep the high quality of living in the city and remains your partner in safety through the delivery of professional police services.

Sincerely,

Stacy A. Altonen
Chief of Police





PROFILE OF POLICE OPERATIONS

The Golden Valley Police Department (GVPD) is comprised of several functions that work together to provide quality customer service, including 911 response, investigations, and crime prevention. The organizational chart on page 2 illustrates how the department is structured.

Chief of Police

The Chief of Police is responsible for creating an organizational structure most conducive to maximizing resources for effective and excellent delivery of police services to the Golden Valley community. The Chief must also ensure and maintain a work environment for employees that fosters professional growth, career opportunities, and mentoring.

Patrol Division

The largest function of the department is assigned to the Patrol Division, which is responsible for handling all 911 and non-emergency calls for police service. Officers respond to all reports of crime and possible crime, medical situations, and reports of animals at large or injured.



Investigations Division

The Investigations Division reviews all police reports of criminal incidents, and the cases are assigned based on solvability and investigator workload capacity. The Investigations Division includes an officer assigned to the Northwest Metro Drug Task Force (a collaborative narcotics investigation group staffed by officers from Golden Valley, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, New Hope, and St Louis Park) and an officer assigned to the Hennepin County Violent Offender Task Force. Yet another officer is assigned as a School Resource Officer with the Robbinsdale School District. With the closing of Sandburg Middle School at the end of the 2009 school year, Golden Valley was asked to help staff Robbinsdale Middle School with a half-time employee for the 2010-2011 school year. The assigned employee spends half his work day at Robbinsdale Middle School and the other half working as a School Resource Officer for Independent School District 287, which is temporarily housed in the Sandburg Middle School building for two years while the school's permanent home in New Hope is built. The salary for this position is reimbursed via contracts with both school districts.

Crime Prevention Unit

The Crime Prevention Unit coordinates a multitude of community and neighborhood meetings; special events such as Minnesota Night to Unite, the Bike Rodeo, the Public Safety Open House, and Junior Safety Camp; and public education courses offered on a number of safety and crime topics. This unit conducts regular crime analysis and crime mapping and issues crime alerts relating to crime patterns or specific criminal actions. It also conducts home safety checks and inspects child car seats for proper installation. This year the first Citizen's Academy was held for citizens interested in finding out about the work, equipment, training, and procedures of Golden Valley police officers.

Support Staff

Support staff serves a critical role in daily police operations, handling all data entry of police reports, documents, and statements as well as data practices requests for police reports. Staff members also answer all non-emergency phone calls, assist with calls involving animals, handle walk-up requests in the building lobby, provide fingerprinting requests by appointment, and assist officers with administrative issues. Through an agreement with Breck School, funding for a Community Service Officer is provided in exchange for daily traffic control near the school twice per school day.



DEPARTMENT PRODUCTIVITY

A call for service includes any police response to a 911 call, a non-emergency call that requires a police response, a traffic stop, any criminal activity spontaneously witnessed by an officer on patrol, any self-initiated officer activity, assistance provided to another agency, any walk-in request at the police station that requires officer involvement, or any incident for which an officer is flagged down for help by an individual. Some factors that can affect the number of calls for service include an increase or decrease in the crime rate, or a public campaign encouraging residents to call 911 when they see something suspicious in the interest of crime prevention.

The number of calls for service in 2010 are listed below (2009 and 2008 are listed for comparison purposes).

2010	2009	2008
19,166	18,129	17,125

Of all the calls for service during 2010 (generated either by a 911 call or self-initiated by an officer), the four most frequent call types were traffic stops, medical emergencies, alarms (residential or business), and suspicious activity/vehicle/person. These were the same most frequent calls for service for 2009 as well. Friday was the busiest day of the week for calls for service, followed by Monday and Tuesday. The top three hours for calls were 2 pm, 1 pm, and 4 pm.

REPORTED CRIME

When looking further into total calls for service, events that are not crimes can be culled to reveal a better understanding of total crime. The figures below represent only the number of actual crimes reported from the total number of calls for service for the year (all misdemeanors, gross misdemeanors, and felonies combined).

2010	2009	2008
3,162	3,204	3,162

CRIME BY CATEGORY

Crime is categorized by level of seriousness and by the elements of the criminal action. The lowest level of crimes are misdemeanors, the next most serious are gross misdemeanors, and the most serious are felonies. Further, the FBI collects monthly, quarterly, and annually reported crime from cities across the nation for general public safety, crime trending, and comparative purposes. The seven most serious felonies are the crimes of murder, rape, robbery, burglary, theft, arson, and vehicle theft. The FBI calls these "Part 1" crimes. All other less serious crimes are categorized as "Part 2" crimes. The totals for the Part 1 crimes in Golden Valley are listed below, along with a breakout of crimes by category.

Part 1 Crime Totals

2010	2009	2008
527	665	653



Part 1 Crime By Category

Aggravated Assault	Arson	Burglary	Rape	Robbery	Theft	Auto Theft
13	4	94 (46 residential, 48 business)	5	7	367 (93 shoplifting, 115 from vehicle, 159 other)	36

Part 2 Crime Totals

2010	2009	2008
1,610	1,233	1,446

ARRESTS

During 2010, Golden Valley police officers made 1,413 arrests, an increase of 21 percent from 2009. Of those arrests, they breakdown by crime level as follows:

Felony	Gross Misdemeanor	Misdemeanor	Petty Misdemeanor
106 arrests	120 arrests	1,119 arrests	68 arrests

For more than 20 years, Golden Valley has been represented by prosecutors Frank Rondoni and Mark Schneider, of the Chestnut & Cambonne law firm. While officers work hard to develop strong cases and arrests, those are ultimately only as effective as the prosecution that follows. The Golden Valley City Attorneys work diligently to pursue prosecution against suspects in driving and criminal cases and ensure those perpetrating crimes against our residents/businesses or on our roadways are brought to justice. We are fortunate to have such a talented legal team working for the safety of our community.

RESPONSE TO CALLS

Golden Valley police officers pride themselves on providing a prompt and professional response to calls for service. To that end, the GVPD staffs officers at a level assessed to be appropriate to respond to emergency calls within law enforcement average response time standards. When a 911 call comes into the dispatch center, it is categorized as either a Priority 1, 2, or 3—the priority level is determined by the nature of the crime or actions described in the 911 call. For instance, a car accident with known or possible injuries or a burglary in progress will be categorized as a Priority 1 call—those deemed most in need of an immediate police presence. Other 911 calls with a less serious nature will get coded as a Priority 2 or 3, again depending on the circumstances of the incident. A call describing an individual begging for money would be coded as a Priority 2, while a call to report a barking dog or to report a crime that happened several days ago would be a Priority 3 call. GVPD response times for 2008–2010 are categorized below.

Priority 1

2010	2009	2008
5 minutes	4 minutes	4 minutes

Priority 2

2010	2009	2008
6 minutes	7 minutes	8 minutes

Priority 3

2010	2009	2008
5 minutes	5 minutes	7 minutes



TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

The GVPD places high value on maintaining the safety of our roads and highways, and strong emphasis on traffic enforcement and driver education is a main component of our Patrol operations. Educating the public about driver and pedestrian safety has proven to save lives. In 2010, Golden Valley officers issued 2,367 traffic citations, gave 1,995 warnings, were involved in three motor vehicle pursuits, and arrested 177 people for DWI (driving while intoxicated). Additionally, staff conducted 45 car safety seat checks to ensure car seats were properly installed and restrained. The GVPD provides this service free of charge by appointment to Golden Valley residents.



Of all the traffic citations issued to motorists in 2010 by Golden Valley Police Officers, the top three most frequently cited violations were driving after suspension, High Occupancy Vehicle ("sane lane") violations, and speeding.

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Golden Valley police officers are trained as first responders so as to provide intermediate medical assistance as part of their regular duties. Absent a full-time Fire Department, most suburbs follow this model in rendering medical assistance to citizens. During 2010, officers assisted 1,547 people in response to a request relating to a medical issue.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Connecting with the community in a wide variety of ways is a high priority for the GVPD. Crime prevention, community meetings, education, and partnerships are part of the foundation of building a strong police/community relationship. The GVPD continually strives to increase collaboration with Golden Valley residents, business owners, and visitors.

Neighborhood Watch

GVPD employees conduct monthly crime prevention meetings by geographic/neighborhood zones to offer safety tips to residents as well as present the latest crime statistics for the respective zone. Residents are encouraged to form or join a Neighborhood Watch group and work as a large team to keep their home and neighbors' homes safe by being observant and reporting any suspicious activity. These meetings serve as a forum for dialogue relating to public safety, city services, statute/ordinance elements, and resource availability. They also offer residents a chance to meet a number of police officers. In 2010, the GVPD conducted 9 Neighborhood Watch meetings throughout the city.

Crime Free Multi-Housing Program

Golden Valley is home to a number of multi-housing units, and the GVPD conducts quarterly meetings with the managers and/or owners of apartment complexes. The purpose of this partnership is to build relationships and offer best practices for rental leases, background screenings, evictions, and nuisance tenants, among other issues. Golden Valley police officers also reach out to youth living in apartment complexes to foster police/youth relationships, encourage school attendance, and reward good school behavior. In 2010 the GVPD held four Apartment Manager/Owners group meetings.

Crime Prevention Training For Businesses

There are numerous businesses in Golden Valley, and the GVPD holds training sessions for business owners and employees on topics such as premises safety, fraud and forgery, and common business crimes, to name a few. In 2010, the GVPD conducted seven training sessions for area businesses.



Safety Camp

One of the most popular annual GVPD events is Safety Camp. The day-long program for kids ages 4–7 provides a fun atmosphere in which police officers and firefighters present home, fire, stranger, and personal safety information in an outdoor, camp-like setting. Besides giving area youth valuable information about safety, Safety Camp also builds positive experiences between youth and public safety personnel. In 2010, 84 children ages 4–7 participated in Safety Camp.



CounterAct

The GVPD pursues positive police/youth interactions through the CounterAct drug abuse prevention program. Officers taught roughly 100 fifth graders at Noble Elementary and Good Shepherd Elementary about the dangers of drug use and dealing with peer pressure to use drugs or alcohol. The six-session program culminates with a graduation ceremony, including skits developed by students depicting scenarios of drug/alcohol use and appropriate resistance techniques.

Bike Rodeo

The annual Bike Rodeo is a collaborative effort with the cities of New Hope and Crystal. Participants interact with area police officers, receive bike safety tips, and get discounted bike helmet rates. About 150 area youth attended the 2010 event.

Open House

Each June, the Golden Valley Police and Fire Departments host an Open House and invite the public to tour the building facilities, watch a controlled fire burn, get inside police and fire vehicles, meet police officers and firefighters, and learn of many police and fire operations and programs.

Ride-Along Program

The GVPD offers the public the opportunity to ride along with a police officer for part of a shift. This can be arranged in advance and provides a first-hand experience about what it is like to be a Golden Valley police officer.

Bike Patrol & More

Throughout the warmer months, officers pedaled their way through more than a hundred hours of bike patrol, which proved to be successful both from a bicycle safety enforcement standpoint and a youth outreach aspect. Police and Fire personnel coordinated many events in Golden Valley parks and apartment complexes, providing pizza and water relief on hot days courtesy of the Fire Department truck hoses. The connections made with area kids and parents proved to be invaluable in building positive police/youth relationships. A new community education session in 2010—a bike-along with two officers covering many points of interest in the city—was also well-received and will be held again in 2011.



2010 POLICE BUDGET

Object	Description	2010 Adopted
Personal Services		
6110	Salaries-Regular Employees	\$2,840,675
6111	Overtime-Regular Employees	127,240
6150	Employee Insurance	420,185
6160	Retirement	234,025
	TOTAL Personal Services	3,622,125
Supplies and Services		
6320	Operating Supplies	40,300
6324	Clothing	30,500
6327	Range Supplies	11,700
6340	Professional Services	148,000
6341	Dispatch Services	317,145
6343	Telephone	15,000
6344	Use of Personal Auto	9,045
6371	Electric Service	----
6382	Contractual Maintenance	20,500
6390	Rentals	12,150
6411	Conferences and Schools	31,000
6413	Dues and Subscriptions	2,560
6440	Other Contractual Services	72,200
	TOTAL Supplies and Services	710,100
Vehicle Maintenance		
7401	Maintenance Charges-Labor	90,000
7402	Maintenance Charges-Parts	37,000
7403	Motor Fuels	103,770
	TOTAL Vehicle Maintenance Charges	230,770
	TOTALS	\$4,562,995



2010 GOLDEN VALLEY POLICE STAFFING

Administration

Chief Stacy Altonen
Patrol Commander Nate Gove
Operations Commander Mike Meehan

Administrative Assistants

Stacie Budig
Amanda Johnson
Nancy Stebe

Community Service Officers (CSO)

Andrew Jelle
Andrea Moss
Charley Roemhild
Michael Smith
Andrew Zappa

Crime Analyst and Support Services Supervisor

Joanne Paul

Police Detectives

Detective Sergeant Dennis Arons
Detective Laura Gould
Detective Mario Hernandez
Detective Dave Larson

Police Officers

Officer Matt Boelter
Officer Tom Buffie
Officer Lance Evans
Officer Dan Feldman
Officer Scott Goebel
Officer Kristin Hoefling
Officer Dave Kuhnly
Officer Randy Mahlen
Officer Ryan Matthew
Officer Dan Pacholke
Officer Jennifer Sleavin
Officer Terry Sleavin
Officer Christine Sloat
Officer David Staaf
Officer Kyle Toavs
Officer Dan Wilcox
Officer Rob Zarrett

Police Sergeants

Sergeant Dave Born
Sergeant Jeff Johnson
Sergeant Steve Johnson
Sergeant Mark Persons
Sergeant Jim Roberts
Sergeant Jason Sturgis

Police Reserve Officers

Joe Gibbs
LeAnn Hrcir
Kari Nelson
Shawn Rydell

Resignations

Justin Kuipers, Community Service Officer
Erica Morgan, Community Service Officer
Robert Werner, Patrol Officer

OVERSIGHT BOARDS

Civil Service Commission

The Golden Valley Police Department uses a Civil Service structure for specific positions relating to personnel. A three-member Civil Service Commission meets periodically to discuss and review requests for approval relating to a variety of personnel issues, including hiring processes, promotional processes, and other police human resource issues.

Gloria Kumagai
Ben Peterson
Marshall Tanick

Crime Prevention Fund

The Crime Prevention Fund, which is managed by a nine-member board of directors, establishes and oversees a reward fund for specific Golden Valley crimes. It also funds a number of community crime prevention and outreach initiatives via a budget funded by public and corporate donations.

Nancy Azzam	Jennifer Moreen
Harriet Betzold	Judy Mustard
Dan Freeman	Hilvie Ostrow
Mark Friederichs	Ralph Schulz
Rhonda Hammons	



The background of the page is a faded American flag, with the stars and stripes visible. The stripes are a light red/pink color, and the stars are white on a light blue background. The flag is oriented diagonally, with the top-left corner of the page showing the stars.

SPECIAL THANKS

The Golden Valley Police Department would like to thank the residents and business owners of Golden Valley for being partners in ensuring the public safety of Golden Valley. Our thanks and appreciation also go to the many private and corporate donors of our community initiatives, and to the countless volunteers who donate the gift of time to the City of Golden Valley. Lastly, thanks to the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for crime lab and patrol services, the Minnesota State Patrol, and the Minneapolis, St Louis Park, Plymouth, Robbinsdale, Crystal, and New Hope Police Departments for assistance throughout the year.